these no examination was made. Autopsy was performed on three patients dying from other causes and in none of them was there found any disease of the central nervous system, the nerve roots, their ganglia nor of the peripheral nerves. Muscle biopsies from twenty-six patients showed histological changes characteristic of muscular dystrophy. Electromyography was performed on seventy-one patients with results which Welander considered typical of myopathic degeneration.

From the 249 cases personally examined, Welander was able to reach certain conclusions: like other types of myopathy, this distal form is heredo-familial, a dominant inheritance being usual. In six families the disease was traced through four generations. Males were more often affected than females. Onset was typically between forty and sixty. The upper limbs were the first to suffer, one side often being involved before the other. The intrinsic hand muscles and the long extensors of the digits were early affected. After an interval of several years wasting and weakness appeared in the intrinsic foot muscles and in the dorsiflexors of the toes and ankles. The tendon jerks were usually spared till the later stages, when the ankle jerks would disappear. As in other types of myopathy sensory changes and fibrillation were absent.

Welander points out that differentiation of distal myopathy from peroneal muscular atrophy, motor neurone disease and dystrophy myotonica, should not be difficult. His patient work has facilitated differential diagnosis. — P. H. Sandifer.


The primary objective of this thesis was to decide the somewhat debatable point whether Still's disease in the form originally described by him really exists as a well-defined clinical entity in children. For this purpose the records of a series of 151 patients attending Danish paediatric clinics between 1920–1948 have been analysed carefully. The author comes to the conclusion that the clinical syndrome described by Still merely represents the severest cases of rheumatoid arthritis, which occurs in children in a comparatively wide variety of types ranging from a mild affection of single large joints to polyarticular forms accompanied with high fever and glandular enlargement, often suggesting a septic condition of grave prognosis. Although it does not seem possible to confer the distinction of a separate clinical syndrome on the type of juvenile rheumatoid disease described specifically by Still, the author does believe that rheumatoid arthritis in children in its various forms shows differences from the adult type sufficiently definite to merit its separate consideration. After the age of about ten years, however, the disease tends to assume the adult and more predominantly polyarticular form. Pathologically the manifestations do not appear to vary notably between the juvenile and adult types.

The author has also investigated the extra-articular manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis in children, and has described a band-shaped keratitis which is remarkable in being found in the eyes of children without evident impairment of vision. This associated lesion of the juvenile disease has not, he believes, been described in adult rheumatoid arthritis. He also noted in juvenile arthritis the surprisingly high incidence of a chronic serous iridocyclitis of insidious onset. After the age of ten years this condition alters, the inflammatory changes becoming more acute and so more like the iritis sometimes seen in patients with the adult type of rheumatoid disease.

No fresh clue to the etiology has been found. The antistreptolysin titre was raised in 40 per cent of cases; the agglutination reaction for haemolytic streptococci proved to be negative in all patients under ten years of age, and positive in only 8 per cent of patients between ten and twenty years who had been followed up. It would thus seem unlikely that streptococcal infection is intimately associated with "Still's disease." There appeared to be more evidence in favour of the presence of a hereditary predisposition. The difficulties of differential diagnosis are adequately dealt with, and the mode of onset and sex incidence are exhaustively considered. The author's views on prognosis are interesting, because this has, in the past, been considered bad, on account of the lack of conclusive evidence to the contrary. After observation for twelve years, 10 per cent of the present series had become completely disabled, and 18 per cent had died for various reasons.
of which only half can be considered to be directly and undoubtedly associated with the rheumatoid disease. Thirty-nine per cent of the series had however recovered, whilst 32 per cent could conduct normal activities in spite of diminished joint function.

The final section is devoted to a study of cardiac involvement in juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. The author finds evidence, both ante- and post-mortem, that chronic rheumatic cardiac disease may result. This was the unquestionable cause of death in one case, and probable cause in two others. Signs of cardiac disease were found in 7 per cent of the 109 patients subjected to follow-up.—W. S. C. COPEMAN.


The second volume of Putti’s Archives is as good as the first; no mean achievement for any journal. Naturally contributors from Florence outnumber those from other centres, but most of Italy is very well represented and there are three papers from Austria and one from Uruguay. The first paper describes the new Orthopaedic Clinic at Pisa, and the vitality of Italian orthopaedics is very well illustrated throughout the whole volume. There are rather more pages on trauma than on all other subjects, but the field covered includes bone physiology, physiotherapy and a good deal of "cold" orthopaedics. The reviewer was particularly interested in a critical study by Piccinini on the treatment of recurrent dislocation of the patella, and in a remarkable account by Calandrillo of an arterio-venous aneurysm caused by a poke in the face from an umbrella rib. The abstracts section is very impressive indeed, and the production and illustrations are a credit to the publishers.—D. L. GRIFFITHS.